

**Southern Sierra IRWMP  
Planning Meeting  
August 26, 2009 1:00 - 4:00 pm  
Meeting Notes**

Attendees:

Nancy Bruce, Circle J – Norris Ranch, Springville Public Utility District (SPUD)  
Carole Clum – Tulare Co. Citizens for Responsible Growth  
Michael Corcoran – Springville Public Utility District (SPUD)  
James May, Tulare County RMA  
Larry Otter, Foothill Water Research  
John Shelton, Department of Fish and Game  
Robyn Smith, Yosemite/Sequoia RC & D  
Chris Stewart, Sequoia National Forest  
Gary Temple, Sierra and Foothills Citizens Alliance/SRCD  
Bobby Kamansky, Project Manager, Sequoia Riverlands Trust  
Frances Tweed, Sequoia Riverlands Trust

**Meeting Notes by Agenda Item**

Introductions / Agenda Items

Bobby noted that Julie Allen (facilitator) will be out because of family reasons, Bobby will be filling in as facilitator until Julie returns. He and introduced himself and had all attendees do the same.

Bobby made two additions to the Agenda: the MOU with the Department of Fish and Game and information from Nancy Bruce and Michael Corcoran of Springville Public Utilities District.

Carole Clum asked this group to support the Oak Woodlands Management Plan in Tulare County. Bobby noted that this important item needs more discussion and information. Action: send Bobby information and it will be on a future agenda.

○ Updates

- Bobby talked about the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) update that Julie Allen provided. Appears JPA is awaiting DWR responses and some are proceeding without DWR guidelines, etc. Gary Temple said that Fresno County Resource Management received the go-ahead to do a Water Management Plan in eastern Fresno Co. The DWR is grantor on this.
- Regarding the Region Acceptance Process (RAP), Bobby is working with DWR. They said that we're on the right track, that we're doing a good job and to keep it up. After the RAP interview, DWR requested a new map depicting the north and south boundaries with Kern County Water Agency

and Madera County, which Bobby handed out at this meeting. Jim May asked about formal comments and there are none yet, there should be some comments in the next couple of weeks. John Shelton said that the DWR likes the fact that we cover an entire region.

- Budget – We do have a budget now thanks to SNC (Sierra Nevada Conservancy). We have 50% of remaining budget available until more bonds are sold. This will keep Elissa in grant writing, with money to do day-to-day things like copying, and for GIS. The budget is approximately \$25,000 and the PC expect to expend that through January.
- We reached out to Audubon and met with Reed Tollefson. They have contacted Kern County Water Agency and have a project (invasive weed control at the Kern River Preserve) that is in the final rankings with the KC IRWMP.
- Bobby met with Paul Boyer, Jessi Snyder, Self-Help Enterprises, and Britton Schwarz, Community Water Center. We need to do work with disadvantaged communities even more than we already are. Community Water Center may be able to contract with us to assist. Bobby will get numbers to see what it would take. John Shelton said that the San Joaquin partnership might be good to go to with this.

#### Added Agenda Items:

- John Shelton said that the MOU is now in front of the Regional Manager and will be signed. Two points: 1) Central Valley Flood Protection Plan 2) there is a meeting of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Groundwater meeting in Fresno on August 27. Also, SNC met with DFG on the Water Management Plan. They will work together on fire clean-up and climate change issues working on composting facilities. They are seeing the residue of pot plantations and “meth” labs in the water. They’re not really restoring land to the way it was, just removing items (i.e. hoses, tools).
- Nancy Bruce and Michael Corcoran said that they had only heard about the SS IRWMP through Bobby’s emails and wanted to learn more about the process. Nancy said that there Springville is a small district with only 432 rate payers. Springville is currently under a moratorium on new hookups, but is looking to lift the moratorium. Michael said to send them an MOU and they will sign it. John Shelton said that Montgomery Ranch Water Co. is also proposing a moratorium.

Jim May said that MOU has moved to the CEO’s office, but stalled at Ishida’s office.

#### ○ Funding

- Strategy (handout)

- Review letter and let Bobby know.
  - Nancy Bruce said that it needed a graphic, there were too many words. A suggestion was made to add a map with a watermark.
  - **Action:** There was a proposal that Soapy Mulholland take this letter to Southern California Edison. This was accepted by the committee.
  - We need to give a special example of a win-win project.
  - Counties
  - Work with Federal partners.
  - Bobby said that NFWS has a major grant.
- Budget Requirements for Planning and Discussion

Bobby facilitated a discussion of the possible items included in the IRWMP, in order to build a budget and work plan for the planning process:

- 1) Studies/Plans – identifying gaps
- 2) Public Meetings:
  - Money for facilitation
  - Meetings in each
- 3) Information – Storage – Transfer
- 4) Projects, identifying, ranking
- 5) Governance and MOU – We’ve done both—update these based on new developments?
- 6) Under possible new Prop 84 guidelines, must incorporate Climate Change? John Suen and David Parkey with Stockholm Institute at U.C. Davis may assist with this.
- 7) Work specifically with disadvantaged communities – John Shelton said to distinguish Tribes from disadvantaged communities, since they have a separate community and are sovereign nations.

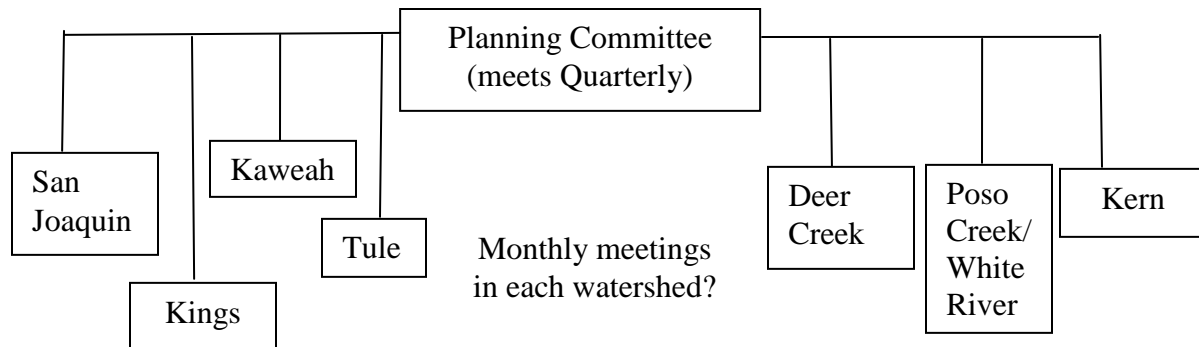
One of the models in the current one under the SNC grant. SSIRWMP has stipends to pay for transportation for participants. Meetings are roughly monthly in a central location.

Another model consists of monthly or semi-monthly planning committee meetings in each watershed with communities so that participants do not have to travel. A big meeting would occur quarterly. Costs: high to facilitate

Note: Bobby made a chart with each division for possible quarterly Planning Committee meetings.

- Poso/WR
- San Joaquin

- Kaweah
- Kings
- Tule
- Deer Creek
- Kern



We need telephone communications for teleconference or webinar. Robyn Smith offered their teleconference. Note: Stipends needed for certain organizations to participate.

Define term of planning—how long will we carry out planning?

Document – Match spreadsheet with in-kind hours

### **Studies**

Note: DFG small section dredging already commissioned – CEQA

#### 1) Extrapolation of users

1. Well water quality
  - Demographics data on septic
  - Household – age spread
2. How deep is your well
  - Match with county
  - GIS – Project with climate change

#### 2) Septic contribution to surface water quality. This has become a key issue with the Regional Water Board

### **ACTION ITEM: John Shelton to produce list of contaminates.**

- 3) Aquatic related recreational economics
- 4) Irrigated pastures

5) Water quantity budgets

- Tule
- Kaweah
- Others?

Contact all water districts – survey

**Action: Carole Clum to share her water surveys with Bobby**

Note: - San Joaquin River not served  
- Shaver  
- Include Tribal lands

6) Best Management Practices (BMP's)

- Collect existing information – synthesize
- Residential – pesticide
- Fire clearances
- Flood control issues
- Grazing – Cattle ponds

**Action: Gary Temple and Chris Stewart have BMP's**

**Action: Jim May to identify flood prone areas**

7) Feasibility for grey water use (**new regulations for disposal, per John Shelton**)

- Feasibility: Wetland water treatment and Three Rivers and Springville water treatment

8) Water Education

- BMPs
- Existing information synthesis
- Second home owners and residents
- Drought tolerant landscaping (invasive species/native plants)

Books: Living in the Foothills – Mariposa, Madera, Fresno (Tulare)

- Developing Curriculum

9) Meadow studies

- Water storage
- Water temperatures
- Inverts

10) Marijuana gardens/Meth labs – drug operations, inventory – what problems?

Budget Line Items:

- Potential Partners

- Potential feasibility notes

○ Kern IRWMP MOU

- Action: Coordinating Committee recommends approval of the MOU with small addition about land use and water quality
- All attending the Planning Committee meeting approved the MOU.

○ Milestones

- Bobby went over the GANTT chart dated 7/5/09

○ Scheduling Meetings

- The next Planning Committee meeting is Wednesday, October 7, 1-4 at the California Farm Bureau in Visalia.

Carole Clum asked if the Sierra Nevada Alliance has signed the MOU. Bobby said that anyone can sign it, even Carole for the Tulare Co. Citizens for Responsible Growth.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00.